Canada's SchoolNet - Librarians

# connecting canadians

## Canada's SchoolNet – Librarians

Canada's SchoolNet is a collaborative initiative led by Industry Canada, in partnership with provincial and territorial governments, the education community and the private sector. SchoolNet aims to provide high-speed access to the Information Highway to Canadian schools and libraries. The program is a part of *Connecting Canadians*, the Government of Canada's strategy to keep Canada among the leaders in connecting its citizens to the Internet. Following is a listing of some of SchoolNet's programs. If you wish to learn more about SchoolNet, please call **1-800-575-9200**, write to **schoolnet@ic.gc.ca** or visit **www.schoolnet.ca**.
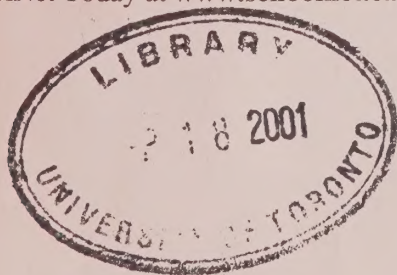
### LibraryNet

With the emergence of information and communication technologies (ICT), libraries have become powerful tools for supporting lifelong learning, delivering innovative services and programs, providing public access to the Internet, and promoting local economic development. Together with Canadian library organizations, LibraryNet encourages public libraries to use the Information Highway in order to expand their services and take on new roles. Through LibraryNet Monthly, an e-mail newsletter, LibraryNet keeps librarians abreast of connectivity issues and the use of ICT in libraries worldwide, with an emphasis on Canadian public libraries. The publication is packed with useful Internet resources, Internet safety guidelines and best practices from around the world. In addition, LibraryNet offers The Internet Guide (TIG), which gives public library staff access to a self-paced web course on basic Internet skills. Designed for librarians by the University of Toronto's Faculty of Information Studies, TIG offers step-by-step instruction on using browsers, conducting web-based research, e-mailing, using chat and discussion groups, downloading software, and much more. Both services are free for library staff across Canada and are available, along with a host of other resources, on the LibraryNet web site at **www.schoolnet.ca/ln-rb**.

### SchoolNet Learning Resources

The World Wide Web is an immense source of information, particularly for educators. But searching for the material that is right for your classroom can be time-consuming. That is why Canada's SchoolNet launched its new learning resources section at **www.schoolnet.ca/home/e/resources**. Linking to more than 5,000 education-related sites, SchoolNet Learning Resources is a great timesaver for any education professional. The site uses advanced metadata search engines and features easy-to-use categories, such as social sciences, mathematics and physical education. You will find everything you need, including teaching support materials, statistical resources and government information sites.

### @SchoolNet Today

Want to keep up on the latest news and events from the world of e-learning? Make visiting @SchoolNet Today a daily ritual! Every day, @SchoolNet Today gathers the kind of information you will find indispensable. It will keep you informed about the latest online educational events, interactive web casts with famous Canadians such as astronaut Julie Payette, petitions on banning land mines, and educational contests your students can enter. @SchoolNet Today will help you and your students keep on top of learning on the Information Highway. Visit @SchoolNet Today at **www.schoolnet.ca/today**.

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## Canada's Digital Collections

Canadian teachers know that their students need access to online content that reflects our country's culture, documents our history and showcases our accomplishments. Canada's Digital Collections at **http://collections.ic.gc.ca** features a wealth of online resources about Canada's history, geography, science, technology and culture. One of the largest sources of Canadian content on the Internet, Canada's Digital Collections houses more than 400 sites created by over 2,700 young Canadians working under contract with Industry Canada. Visitors can take a virtual tour through B.C. museums to view the artwork of artist Emily Carr or research the vast archives of McGill University to explore the works of celebrated Canadian architect Moshe Safdie. Designed by and for Canadians, Canada's Digital Collections is a site you will not want to miss.

## Computers for Schools

For Canada's young people to get the ICT skills they need for the Information Age, it is vital that they have access to computer technology in their learning environment. The Computers for Schools program is helping meet this need by collecting, refurbishing and upgrading computer equipment donated by governments and businesses. The program ensures that Canadian classrooms and libraries are equipped with the technology to carry out their e-learning strategies. In addition, Computers for Schools works with schools to create workshops where students and teachers can get valuable hands-on experience in computer repair and troubleshooting. Visit **www.schoolnet.ca/cfs-ope** for more information.

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